

ABSTRACT

Apparatus and method for a first device to query a second device for the availability of a hardware feature within the second device, and for the second to receive and analyze the query to determine whether or not to respond, depending on the version of hardware feature sought, a code identifying a vendor, etc., and responding with a reply providing an indication of availability of the hardware feature and/or an address at which the hardware feature may be accessed, if the determination is made to reply.